

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

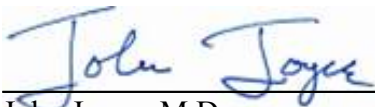
We write to voice our strong support for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for all counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to the catastrophic freeze that occurred on April 20-21, 2026. This significant, unprecedented event caused extraordinary damage to blooming crops, notably Pennsylvania's apple, peach, and pear orchards.

Early estimates from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture show that Pennsylvania's specialty crop industry could face between \$150 million and \$200 million in economic losses due to these low temperatures. This rare late April freeze, with temperatures dropping into the low 20's for extended periods, now has our constituents anticipating near-total crop losses for the season.

Our farmers desperately need this Secretarial Designation and the associated low-interest loans from USDA to manage ongoing costs as they continue to grapple with the crippling impacts caused by these destructive low temperatures.

We urge you to take swift action to support Pennsylvania's specialty crop growers. The top industry in Pennsylvania is agriculture, and the small family farms that we represent in Congress are at risk. Disaster resources from USDA are critical to ensuring that our farms, orchards, and vineyards can survive these historic losses and contribute to our country's agricultural heritage for generations to come.

Sincerely,



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John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



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Rob Bresnahan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress